

### **REMARKS**

These remarks are in response to the Office Action mailed January 10, 2005. Claims 17, 32-38, and 44 have been amended. New claims 55-74 have been added. The Applicants acknowledge the fact that claim 54 has been withdrawn from consideration as a claim that is directed to a non-elected invention. The amendment introduces no new matter. Claims 17, 32-40, 42-46, 53, and 55-68 will be under examination upon the entry of the amendment.

#### **A. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)**

Claims 17, 32, and 36 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as allegedly being anticipated by Purohit et al. (*Biochemistry*, 1995, 34(36):11508-11514) (item 16 on page 5 of the Office Action). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The legal standard for a rejection by anticipation is clear. A valid rejection of a claim for anticipation by a reference requires that the reference explicitly or inherently describe all of the elements, limitations, and relationships recited in the claim. It is submitted that the Purohit et al. reference fails to satisfy this standard.

More particularly, claim 17, as amended, recites a method that includes the limitation "differentiating the mixtures on the basis of activity." Purohit et al. use an enzyme activity assay on the protein present in the complex mixture to indirectly assess the level of protein-inhibitor complex formed. Purohit et al. never disclose isolating the protein-inhibitor complex. Accordingly, Purohit et al. merely describe protein inhibition by measuring the amount of active enzyme and then by indirectly making the assumption that the decrease in activity in the presence of their estrone inhibitor was due to the formation of an adduct. Purohit et al. fail to disclose differentiating a complex mixture of proteins on the basis of activity.

Accordingly, claim 17 is patentably distinguishable over Purohit et al. Each of claims 32 and 36 was made dependent on the allowed claim 53; consequently, claims 32 and 36 are considered allowable for. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) are respectfully requested.

**B. Objections to Claims**

The Examiner objected to claims 33-35, 37-40, and 42-46 because claims 34, 35, 37-40 and 46 depend on the rejected base claim 17 and claims 33, and 42-45 depend on at least one of the rejected intermediate scope claims 32 or 36. By the present amendment, claim 38 has been re-written in independent form which is allowable as has been indicated by the Examiner. Claims 33-35, 37, 39, 40, and 42-46 have been amended and no longer depend on the rejected claims. Instead, claims 33-35, 37, 39, 40, and 42-46 now depend on either the allowed claim 53 or the allowable claim 38, as amended.

Accordingly, it is submitted that claims 33-35, 37-40, and 42-46 as amended are allowable. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections to claims are respectfully requested.

**C. Status of Newly Added Claims**

The applicant added new claims 55-74. As discussed above, claim 17 as amended is considered patentable. Each of new claims 55-68 depends on claim 17, directly or indirectly, and is consequently considered patentably allowable for at least the same reason. Claims 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, and 74 represent claims 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, and 37 re-written in independent form as suggested by the Examiner. Therefore, claims 69-74 are considered patentable.

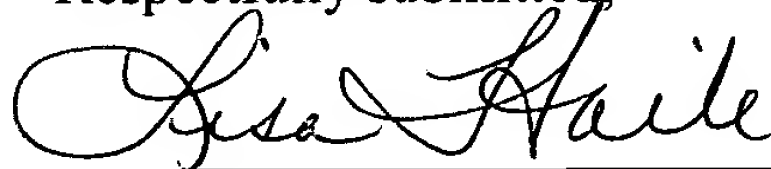
**CONCLUSION**

In view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration and favorable action on all claims are respectfully requested. In the event any matters remain to be resolved, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number given below so that a prompt disposition of this application can be achieved.

A check No.577183 in the amount \$815.00 to cover the fee for additional 11 claims and 3 multiple claims is attached herewith. No other fees are believed due in connection with this Response. In the event that an additional fee is due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any amounts required by this filing, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 07-1896.

Date: April 11, 2005

Respectfully submitted,



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